

# This Week on the Peak



## Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! April 12, 2023

Dear Sandra,

I am Kathi Bayne and I am a member of our Antiracism Anti-oppression Committee. Part of the work we have been doing is educating ourselves about the origins and impact of oppression.

*The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein and recent statistics were eye opening for me. Black home ownership has been negatively impacted by laws and legal decisions which allowed blacks to be stripped of their homes and property; only lower paying jobs made available to black workers; lower pay for comparable work; the Social Security system, which initially excluded most black people, neighborhood covenants banning blacks from buying homes; red lining of black neighborhoods and black owned businesses; real estate companies raising housing prices for blacks; lending institutions charging higher rates and less favorable terms to blacks; subprime mortgages which often targeted black people, and COVID which disproportionately affected people of color. It has been harder for black families to obtain a home and to hold onto their homes.



Since home ownership makes up the largest part of most Americans' net worth, a racial gap in home ownership is a large contributor to the black wealth gap. According to the Federal Reserve, the median net worth of black families in 2019 was \$24,100; for white families it was \$188,200. White households holds 80.4% of real estate holdings. The current homeownership rate for black families in the Bay Area is only 34%, and the number is decreasing.

We looked for some way that our MPUUC community could work toward a more equitable future by partnering with a well rated 501(c) organization. We were grateful to find Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond (CHDC)

CHDC's Executive Director Donald Gilmore writes, "Thanks to support from community and faith-based partners such as the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, CHDC developed the Black Wealth Initiative (BWI) to minimize racial and socioeconomic inequities by assisting Black families financially through:

- Down payment assistance
- Closing cost assistance
- Financial management education

In 2022, CHDC was able to provide:

- \$197,250 was received through donations. \$28,000 was earmarked for education.
- 12 families received a \$10,000 down payment toward the purchase of an affordable home.
- More than 8 families received up to \$1,200 toward closing costs and other fees, and \$175 in financial education.
- The BWI goal for 2023 is to increase these numbers by 25%."

Please join us in Share the Plate this Sunday with Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond.

Kathi Bayne

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## This Sunday's Service:

Service can be attended in-person at Cole Hall or online. See [mpuuc.org/zoom](https://mpuuc.org/zoom) each week for how to attend services.

### The Better Angels of our Nature

Sometimes we find ourselves in a conflict of feeling torn. We're called toward something new, but with an uncomfortable and unshakeable loyalty to what is being replaced. This is a service where we explore the conversation that divided the nation - and still does. We will look at some of the history and lessons about the price we pay for memorializing our woundedness instead of entertaining the better angels of our nature.



Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Rev. Barbara Meyers. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Rocks will provide our music.

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## Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely, you can donate and/or fulfill your pledge in the 3 ways shown below:

Mail check to

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545  
Fremont, CA 94537-0545

(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop envelope with a check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:  
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
We will be collecting this once per week.

Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.  
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

## Share the Plate for CHDC in April

Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) is a well rated 501(c) group working for a more equitable future by helping Bay Area black families purchase and keep their homes through down payment assistance, closing cost assistance, and financial management education. Please help support CHDC by sharing our plate



*Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:*

Write a check to MPUUC with "CHDC" in the memo line and mail to:

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

P.O. Box 545, Fremont, CA 94537-0545

(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop an envelope with a check (with "CHDC" on the memo line) in our mail slot addressed to: Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card. Choose "Special" as the donation type. Please state "For "CHDC" in the message. Note we use PayPal for this, and they charge us around 3%

**Please note we will be collecting for CHDC until May 14.**

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## CIRCLE OF LIFE

Each week, we post the previous Sunday's Joys and Concerns that we were given permission to share. We encourage you to make room in your heart for the hopes and fears of your fellow members. Reach out to celebrate and console those you care about. Here are the [Joys and Concerns](#) for the past 4 weeks. If you would like your joy or concern to appear in the Wheel of

Life, contact the Encouragement Committee at [ecteam@mpuuc.org](mailto:ecteam@mpuuc.org)

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## Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister's Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week's conversation will be on the Better Angels of our Nature. Have you have been visited by a 'better angel?' Someone who had an uncanny ability to convey to you how you can get in touch with your best intentions – and the world's best interests? We welcome all voices who wish to participate in discussion on interesting topics. The link to the conversation can be found if you [Press here](#)

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## Children's Chapel during service Sunday, April 30th!

Following the Time for all Ages, children are invited to join Children's Chapel in one of the RE classrooms, location tbd. Depending on the ages of those who come we plan to sing a little song and read a book, then enjoy some free-play. Parents/grandparents/caregivers are welcome to join the program or remain in service.

 **Children's Chapel**  
Sunday April 30th during service  
following the Time for all Ages



We'll sing a song and read a book together, then have free-play time. Parents/grandparents/caregivers are welcome to join us or remain in service.



Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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Are you longing for more young people in attendance at services on Sunday mornings? Join us on April 30th for Children's Chapel during service and help build the momentum! 1-2 volunteers are needed. Our safety policy requires two adults in attendance when there are children present. This event will repeat monthly, dates tbd through the spring and summer, settling on a recurring monthly Sunday by the fall. If you can help out please let Ariel know and if you can't help out on April 30th but would like to help in future Children's Chapel events you can also let Ariel know ([dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org)).

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## ARO workshops on Microaggressions and Religious Wounding

Rev. Barbara Meyers and Rev. Greg Ward

### Wednesday April 26 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Religious Wounds .

Many people have been wounded by religious communities they've been a part of. This has been particularly true of people identifying as LGBT. Come and learn about how this happens and how we can be a compassionate and welcoming home at MPUUC.

**Sign Up** for Religious Wounds workshop. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Welcome to MPUUC's outing to Fremont's Museum of Local History:

Please join ARO, Rev. Greg, Religious Education's Ariel, and Mission Peak Congregation members after the service **Sunday, April 23**, to visit **Fremont's Washington Township Museum of Local History located at 190 Anza St., Fremont, CA 94539** (about 5 minutes from the Church).

We will meet for lunch at **Mission Coffee Roasting Company** (151 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539) at **12 noon**. Then, we will head to the Museum a couple blocks away.

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## FELLOWSHIP CORNER

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**Thursday April 13th: All ages potluck dinner and game night** Ockerman 7/8 from 6-8pm (in-person)

This week we meet in Ockerman 7/8 to come together over shared food- either homemade or store bought, all food contributions are welcome! We'll light a chalice to kick things off and then tuck in to our stone-soup-style dinner. If you're not sure about eating indoors with others you're more than welcome to come for the second hour when we'll likely be done eating and playing some games. If you plan to come for dinner it would be helpful to RSVP so we know how many chairs and tables to put out, simply send an email

to [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org) and let us know how many in your party or fill out [this super short rsvp](#). It would be so great to have you there! And if this week isn't possible we'll be glad to see you at future potluck & game night events rolling out all spring.

RSVP preferred but not required.

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**Saturday April 15th: calling all dogs and dog lovers!** Lake Elizabeth dog park (map [here](#)) 10-11:30AM (in-person)

Dog party for all MPUUC people and their canine family! Herbal tea and pastries will be on hand. [RSVP](#) if you want there to be enough pastry for you:)

RSVP not required.

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**Wednesday April 26: All ages potluck dinner and game night** Cole Hall from 6-8pm (in-person)

This week we meet in Cole Hall to come together over shared food- either homemade or store bought, all food contributions are welcome! We'll light a chalice to kick things off and then tuck in to our stone-soup-style dinner. If you're not sure about eating indoors with others you're more than welcome to come for the second hour when we'll likely be done eating and playing some games. If you plan to come for dinner it would be helpful to RSVP so we know how many chairs and tables to put out, simply send an email to [dre@mpuuc.org](mailto:dre@mpuuc.org) and let us know how many in your party or fill out [this super short rsvp](#). It would be so great to have you there! And if this week isn't possible we'll be glad to see you at future potluck & game night events rolling out all spring.

RSVP preferred but not required.

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## JUSTICE CORNER

I (Cal Ball) came to activism late in life after retiring from a career in music and then technology. I didn't know anything except that I wanted to do something to contribute to making the world more equitable for all. Armed only with my lofty goals, I reached out to folks in the UU community, a little intimidated but willing to learn. I was met with welcome, patience, humor and support by some extraordinary folks that had been doing this work for years.



Now I coordinate Side With Love's [Skill Up Series](#), our monthly trainings on organizing skills to help YOU build stronger teams in your congregation and community. When I think about our Skill Ups, they mirror my experience: welcoming, fun, and educational offerings to help all of us get to a higher level in this work that we cherish of harnessing love's power to stop oppression.

[Will you join us this semester?](#)

This Spring, our Skill Up Theme is "**How to Talk About Hard Things.**" You are heartily invited to attend these very informative and rich workshops that not only cover high-level concepts but also offer practical guidance and hands-on practice. Each topic will be delivered by experts and long-time organizers with special knowledge and experience presenting

• **Apr 23 - [Facing the Apocalypse With a Smile](#)**, led by Rachel Myslivy, Side with Love Climate Justice Organizer



## [Stranger At the Gate](#)

The Academy Award winning Stranger At the Gate is an amazing true story of a Muslim community showing compassion and love to a stranger who was planning to harm them. An important 30 minutes to understand what can lead to prejudice and a change of heart.



## Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Committee (ARO) Recommendations

Dear Friends,

(Our letter this month comes from our **new Co-Director of Programs, Rev. Kelly Dignan!**)

I'm so excited to join UU Ministry for Earth! Our vision is a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. That's the world I want to help create. Rev. Daniel Lawlor will continue to lead development and communication while I lead programming. The staff and Board are amazing, and it's great to be part of the team. I'll be working 20 hours per week and look forward to interacting and co-creating with all of you over time.

I'm a Unitarian Universalist minister and identify as a white, cisgender, straight, currently fully-abled woman committed to dismantling systemic oppressions, such as racism, ableism, and heteronormative beliefs. I believe we can replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect.

I had a 22-year career in business and was an executive coach when the idea of seminary wouldn't leave my heart and soul. My Master of Divinity comes from Iliff School of Theology, and I am an adjunct instructor there teaching UU History. I've served as pastor of three congregations and know the power of UUMFE in congregational life. I offer spiritual coaching to individuals, and am on the Board of Directors of [UU Wellspring](#), a program for spiritual deepening.

Born, raised and still living in Denver, Colorado, I honor the sacred land of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Núu-agma-ténu-pé (Ute) and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux) people whose governments and cultures are still alive. I've been exploring my own indigenous roots and spirituality for the past five years, and in the process have deepened my relationship with Earth and all her inhabitants through practice and direct experience.

I'm married to Pete Dignan who teaches Climate Action for Business and the Certificate in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy at University of Colorado Leeds School of Business. He and I are Unitarian Universalists together and are grateful for this faith tradition. Between us, we have four grown children and a grandchild, all of whom live in Denver near us.

It's an honor to support the UUMFE mission to be a wellspring of spiritual and educational grounding and practical support for bold, accountable action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of all life.

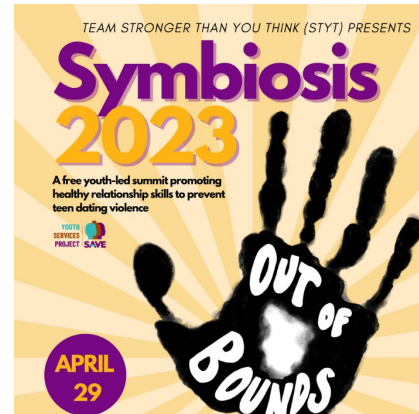
Love,  
Rev. Kelly Dignan  
Co-Director, Programs

## 8th Principle Learning

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thprinciplelearningcommunity/permalink/1180652802819236/>

## Team Stronger Than You Think (STYT) Presents Symbiosis 2023: Out of Bounds April 29

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Ohlone College



Symbiosis is a free summit created by and for youth that aims to uplift queer and trans youth, provide education about healthy relationships, and empower youth activists in their home communities. At Symbiosis, junior high and high school-aged folks will learn from breakout session workshops, hear from keynote speakers, create art, enjoy performances, and build community. 2023 marks the 6th annual Symbiosis co-hosted by Team STYT and SAVE. Visit the SAVE [website](#) for complete information.

## Mission Peak Money Matters: Contact Info



Responsibilities for Mission Peak UU's financial process are shared between our Congregational Administrator, Sandra Lange ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)) and our temporary treasurer, DeAnna Alm. ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)).

- Sandra handles most ongoing operational tasks, such as pledge tracking, reimbursement requests/status, contribution statements, stock donations, and the like. If you are submitting a reimbursement request, please send to both [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org).
- Please send any questions to both the treasurer email ([treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org)), which is being monitored by DeAnna Alm and also to Sandra ([office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org)). This will ensure that any financial questions are answered promptly.
- **Important note** - if you are making a stock donation/pledge, please notify Sandra at [office@mpuuc.org](mailto:office@mpuuc.org) and [treasurer@mpuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@mpuuc.org) immediately.

# ACT NOW!

## Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Assembly Member Alex Lee 408-262-2501  
Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)  
Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631  
Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553  
Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841





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